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Hello,

I am writing as a consumer who has already invested (a substantial amount of money) in HDTV. I have comments on the introductory paragraph and Section 9.

The introductory paragraph relates the major content companies concerns very well, though these same companies (Disney, in particular) vowed that VCRs would be the death of the industry. They are in the business of creating content and selling it for profit. Content is already being distributed in HDTV. I don't see this trend being reversed. If they withhold content from broadcasting, their broadcast revenues will decline. People can already pirate DVDs and have been able to for years. Movies are released on DVD first, are not censored, are not edited so broadcast TV doesn't seem to be a big issue. I do not believe that the shareholders of the major houses will allow them to reduce their profits and will force them to broadcast everything they can. The FCC has already spurred the conversion to DTV by the tuner mandate ensuring they get the analog channels back. This ship is moving out to sea. Don't stop it with restrictions that consumers could/would deem unacceptable.

Section 9 tells the tale of a copy protection system that does not exist and really cannot exist. One that does not trample on fair use, allows people to time-shift, allows people to copy for their personal use, does not interfere with PVRs, and work with "home digital networks."

Some points to consider:

- * It must work with multiple operating systems, not just Windows. People have MacIntosh and Linux machines. The failed Sony CD protection only works on Windows.

- * People must be allowed to time shift the content and play the content in the manner they want. Pause, Rewind, Fast-Forward, just like a VCR.

- * The removable media need to be able to be played in different devices. For example, you record something downstairs but take the tape and watch it upstairs.

- * There should not be any "phone home" logging of users actions (What channel is on, how many times has a recording been played, has it been copied, are commercials being skipped, ...) Time and time again, companies are caught misusing personal data (Microsoft with Passport, recently) and the ability to gather all data absolutely on a household removes too much privacy and invites further profiling.

- * There should be no ability to turn off recording from the network side. As it stands now, I can record any show. I also don't see the networks limiting it to just pay-per-view. It is likely to creep to premium channels, then to more and more.

- * And finally, it MUST support the legacy hardware already in existence. It pains me to call my \$2000 1 month old tv "legacy." What

will happen to DTV/HDTV on existing televisions?

In summary, I think the assertions of the media conglomerates are false. The economy is significantly down, unemployment is up yet they are breaking box office records. The MPAA was complaining that spiderman was on the p2p networks within a day of release yet it still broke box office records. I also think that any copy protection that will give fair use rights will be weak enough to easily be worked around by pirates. What is more likely will be restrictions on fair use for honest people and the pirates will work around it anyway. We already have copyright laws to take on pirates.

Thanks for taking the time to listen to consumers,
John Collier

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